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CRESTVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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September 2016

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, September 11: Blood Drive for The Blood and Tissue Center of Central Austin at Faith Lutheran Church Activity Center, 6600 Woodrow Ave. Walk-ins welcome from 9:30 AM–1:30 PM, or to make an appointment for that day, call or email the church office at 512-451-1116 or flcoffice@att.net.

Monday, September 12: Crestview Neighborhood Association Meeting. 7:00 PM at the Journey Imperfect Faith Community Church, 7500 Woodrow Ave. Guest Speaker: Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7. Additional Topics: Updates from the Crestview Safety Committee and on the Meadowlawn deed restrictions case, Grover Avenue restriping, Safe Routes to School, upcoming recycling event at the Crestview United Methodist Church.

Sunday, September 18: SHAZAAM! Art–Food–Conversation. 3:30 PM–6:00 PM at the Journey IFC, 7500 Woodrow Ave. A free fun-filled afternoon for children, youth, and adults! Music, crafts, story time for children, discussion for youth and adults, games for all ages and it will end with a cookout so everyone can eat dinner together. Everyone is welcome! Bring friends, and wear clothing that you don't mind getting wet!

Saturday, September 24: Crestview United Methodist Church life events planning seminar, "Putting Your House in Order", 9:00–11:00 AM. See the article inside for details.

Saturday, September 24: Gullett Elementary School's 60th Anniversary Celebration and Carnival. Noon–4:00 PM on the school grounds, 6310 Treadwell Blvd. A celebration of 60 years, with nostalgia, old pictures, and yearbooks from the 1950's and 60's.

Council Recap

By Council Member Leslie Pool, District 7

It has been a little less than two years since the 10-1 City Council first took office—but it has been a very eventful time, filled with learning, hard work, and late nights. Throughout this time, I have been working as your Council Member to improve quality of life and ensure that Austin is a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family. However, our communities face a number of challenges to this vision.

Austin's rapid growth, while it has brought certain benefits, has also brought certain challenges that make it less safe for our children to walk and bike around neighborhoods with increased traffic, more difficult to ensure access to quality parks and pools for all of our residents, harder for our emergency responders to serve our growing communities, and tougher to maintain our aging public infrastructure, among many other issues.

There are no simple solutions to these persistent challenges. Still, the city has taken some pretty important steps to improve city governance and quality of life for our communities, including:

- Investing in mobility safety through reconstructing our streets, putting in sidewalks, implementing traffic calming, and adding pedestrian lights
- Improving our community assets, such as our parks, pools, and libraries, many of which are aging and need repairs to keep them open and accessible to our neighbors with disabilities
- Ensuring that the police department is able to patrol our neighborhoods during major downtown events, like South by Southwest
- Directing our city staff to revamp the city's graffiti abatement strategies
- Focusing on ways to improve the city's flood mitigation strategies and its community engagement efforts
- Reforming the city's lobbyist and campaign finance reporting rules to close loopholes and improve transparency

At our August 18 meeting, the Council approved placing a mobility bond proposal on the ballot this November that includes investments in building sidewalks, reducing traffic fatalities, and improving Burnet Rd. and North Lamar Blvd. for residents of all ages and abilities.

And those are just a few of the things my colleagues and I have been working on. I also am very grateful for the strong community leadership we have across District 7. City Council's work, including the efforts described here, is very important, but it also takes sustained leadership from empowered residents to improve quality of life for current and future neighbors. Over the past two years, community leaders across District 7 have helped take on many quality of life projects, including: parks improvements, art in public places, traffic calming, mobility and safety, flood mitigation, public safety, and much more. I deeply appreciate these community efforts and encourage anyone who is interested in helping enhance quality of life in our neighborhoods to connect with your neighbors and contact my office so my staff can help empower you to pursue positive change in District 7.

Please do not hesitate to contact my staff on this, or any other city-related matter, at District7@AustinTexas.gov.

CRESTVIEW
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

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CNA Contact Information

P. O. Box 9505, Austin, TX 78766
www.crestviewna.com
CNA General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM.
Location to be announced.

Twitter: @CNAneighbors
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Neighborhood Email Groups

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crestview-gardeners@googlegroups.com
crestview-parents@googlegroups.com

CNA Committees

ADOPT-A-MEDIAN
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
ART AT ENTRANCES

New Top Drawer Thrift Store in Crestview

Top Drawer, a funky, fun thrift shop with a huge heart at 49th St. and Burnet Rd., has opened a second location in Crestview at 7101B Woodrow Ave.

Since 1993, the Burnet location has been selling items in support of Project Transitions, a non-profit providing support, housing and hospice to those with HIV/AIDS. All proceeds directly benefit the programs of the nonprofit and the current store is mostly run by volunteers.

"I can't begin to tell you how excited Project Transitions is to dive into this new experiment. We have had the Top Drawer location at 49th and Burnet for over 20 years and it has been amazingly successful and popular," said Karin Kokinda, Top Drawer's manager. "The new store gives us the opportunity to showcase some of the more special and unusual items that are generously donated."

Shoppers can expect high-end finds including clothing, books, home goods, and art at the Crestview location. The store has been a vital part of Project Transitions programming, not only for the donations, but also for the awareness of those who live with HIV/AIDS.

"It's a collaboration between the community and Project Transitions. It starts with our donors who provide our inventory, then our loyal customers that come shop in our store, and finally, our clients who directly benefit from 100% of the proceeds," said Madge Whistler, Project Transitions Financial Administrator.

To contact Top Drawer Crestview about acceptable items or for more information, call 512-454-5161. Top Drawer Crestview's hours are 11:00 AM–7:00 PM Tuesday through Saturday. Donations will continue being accepted only at the Burnet location. For more information about Project Transitions, call 512-454-8646 or go to www.projecttransitions.org.

Austin Library Expands Virtual Collection

The Austin Public Library has expanded its Virtual Library collection. You can now get simultaneous access to thousands more eBooks for various age groups, in both English and Spanish, with your Library Card.

This new-to-APL management platform, powered by Odilo, features a wealth of downloadable eBooks and streaming audiobooks in Spanish, to better serve the needs of the Spanish-speakers in the Austin community.

"Spanish-speakers make up more than 30 percent of our community, and now the Austin Public Library will offer thousands of native, popular and bestselling titles," said Library Director Brenda Branch. "This provides quality Spanish content our customers want."

Library customers will also appreciate the ability to enjoy the new digital content on any device, whether an e-reader, computer, or smartphone.

Customers never incur late fees because the titles automatically expire after the three-week checkout period. For more information, call 512-974-7379.

Do You Have a Plan for Your Loved Ones?

An informative seminar for all adults, young and old, on giving the gift of preparedness to those you love.

On Saturday, September 24, Crestview United Methodist Church will host a two-hour seminar, open to the public, on "Putting Your House in Order." Topics include making a will, setting up guardianship for dependents, inheritance planning, living wills, and other documents that will allow you to plan in advance instead of leaving difficult decisions for others to make.

The seminar will be from 9:00–11:00 AM at Crestview UMC, 1300 Morrow St. It will be led by guest presenter Tom Stanton, General Counsel of the Texas Methodist Foundation. A registration fee of $10 provides participants with a 32-page workbook including samples of legal documents.

For more information, contact Larry Smith at 512-345-6717. To register and reserve your place, email office@crestviewmethodist.org.

If you, like most people, tend to put off making these important decisions, take advantage of this opportunity!

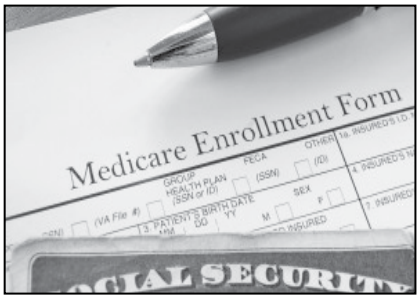
Financial Scams Targeting Seniors

From the National Council on Aging

Financial scams targeting seniors have become so prevalent that they're now considered "the crime of the 21st century." Why? Because seniors are thought to have a significant amount of money sitting in their accounts. Watch out for these scams.

Medicare/health insurance scams

Every U.S. citizen or permanent resident over age 65 qualifies for Medicare, so there is rarely any need for a scam artist to research what private health insurance company older people have in order to scam them out of some money.



In these types of scams, perpetrators may pose as a Medicare representative to get older people to give them their personal information, or they will provide bogus services for elderly people at makeshift mobile clinics, then use the personal information they provide to bill Medicare and pocket the money.

Counterfeit prescription drugs

Most commonly, counterfeit drug scams operate on the Internet, where seniors increasingly go to find better prices on specialized medications. This scam is growing in popularity—since 2000, the FDA has investigated an average of 20 such cases per year, up from five a year in the 1990s.

The danger is that besides paying money for something that will not help a person's medical condition, victims may purchase unsafe substances that can inflict even more harm. This scam can be as hard on the body as it is on the wallet.

Funeral & cemetery scams

The FBI warns about two types of funeral and cemetery fraud perpetrated on seniors.

In one approach, scammers read obituaries and call or attend the funeral service of a complete stranger to take advantage of the grieving widow or widower. Claiming the deceased had an outstanding debt with them, scammers will try to extort money from relatives to settle the fake debts.

Another tactic of disreputable funeral homes is to capitalize on family members' unfamiliarity with the considerable cost of funeral services to add unnecessary charges to the bill. In one common scam of this type, funeral directors will insist that a casket, usually one of the most expensive parts of funeral services, is necessary even when performing a direct cremation, which can be accomplished with a cardboard casket rather than an expensive display or burial casket.

If you suspect you've been the victim of a scam…

Don't be afraid or embarrassed to talk about it with someone you trust. You are not alone, and there are people who can help. Doing nothing could only make it worse. Keep handy the phone numbers and resources you can turn to, including the local police, your bank (if money has been taken from your accounts), and Adult Protective Services. To obtain the contact information for Adult Protective Services in your area, call the Eldercare Locator, a government sponsored national resource line, at: 1-800-677-1116, or visit their website at www.eldercare.gov.

Adopt-A-Median

Interested in light gardening and/or safety issues in Crestview? If you are, please consider adopting a traffic-calming median! The plants in the medians are natives and require little water or attention. However, several unadopted medians have become overgrown with the recent rains, and we need your help trimming them back. The city has received some complaints and has said they will remove the plants if the medians are not kept up. CNA Officer Elaine Stegant is putting together a list of those medians which need to be adopted and maintained and will assist with the initial trimming. If interested, contact Elaine at atxes1945@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Artist Profile

By Marilyn Querejazu

An interview with Crestview artist Archie Cox.

Describe your art background and early start as an artist.

During the 60's I studied architecture at the community college in Chula Vista, California. I noticed early on that students in the art department were a lively bunch, painting out in the grass, and in general having more fun than architecture students.

I finished my undergraduate degree at the University of Arkansas and my master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin (both in architecture). Throughout my education, I maintained an active interest in art—I took classes and made art. Drawing and painting have always been an important part of my life.

Who were your early influencers?

My mother was an oil painter, so art, especially painting, has always been part of my life. I was fortunate to have great art teachers in college. The best advice I received is this: "Don't paint what you see; paint it as you see it."

What advice do you have for kids who want to be artists?

Just go for it. Focus. Work hard and draw a lot. Try all media until you find a niche that fits you.

What is your preferred color palette?

Monochromatic, that is, shades of the same color. I also like to use primary colors.

Where do you derive inspiration?

I like to sit in a comfortable chair, watch baseball, drink beer and draw.

I'm a musician and because of that experience I sense that art is visual music. My art has the attributes of music: tone, rhythm, movement through a scale.

Do you have a self-portrait?

Not yet. Maybe I'll have one ready for the next West Austin Studio Tour.

Where can people see your art in Austin?

My studio on Richcreek, Instagram, and the Wally Workman Gallery at www.wallyworkmangallery.com.

You can contact Archie Cox at acoxjr@hotmail.com or 512-415-0516.

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Austin Police Crime Search Report for July 2016

Crime	Street	Date	Time
Assault by threat	73XX Grover Ave	7/10/2016	2:44
Burglary non residence	76XX Wildcat Pass	7/13/2016	16:07
Burglary of residence	76XX Watson St	7/26/2016	11:45
Burglary of residence	12XX Morrow St	7/26/2016	16:47
Burglary of vehicle	17XX Dartmouth	7/18/2016	14:09
Burglary of vehicle	11XX Morrow St	7/23/2016	13:15
Crash/leaving the scene	74XX Lamar Blvd	7/19/2016	22:42
Criminal mischief	11XX Morrow St	7/26/2016	20:03
Criminal mischief	X Burnet Ln	7/29/2016	10:29
Criminal trespass	78XX Gault St	7/23/2016	5:32
DWI	8XX Justin Ln	7/20/2016	2:06
Harassment	75XX Sugar Magnolia St	7/19/2016	19:30
Harassment	17XX St Johns Ave	7/29/2016	12:41
Injury to elderly person	69XX Burnet Ln	7/10/2016	15:42
Suspicious person	76XX Watson	7/12/2016	16:39
Theft	8XX St Johns Ave	7/2/2016	3:40
Theft	76XX Robalo Rd	7/12/2016	19:41
Theft	17XX Anderson Ln	7/28/2016	10:15
Theft of bicycle	72XX Easy Wind	7/29/2016	20:45

September Safety Tip

Drivers: Be mindful of school zones and stopped buses. Watch for children exiting buses, on bikes, crossing streets or walking in or near the street. Students and parents: Watch out for cars that may not see you. Pay attention to traffic signals and obey them. Plan a safe walking route to/from school that takes advantage of crossing guards and signal lights when possible and uses the fewest street crossings.

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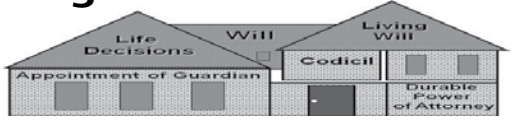
Putting Your House in Order



A seminar on preparedness led by Tom Stanton, General Counsel, TMF

$10/Person, Saturday, Sept. 24 , 9-11 am

Email the church to reserve a spot!

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1300 Morrow office@crestviewmethodist.org

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